Institutionalizing Internet Governance in the Arab Region
“Towards an Arab IGF”

Expert Group Meeting on the Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance
25-26 October 2010

Ayman El-Sherbiny
UN-ESCWA, ICTD

Contents

- Global Perspective
- Regional Perspectives
- Arab Region Perspective
- Towards an Arab IGF
- Arab IGF Proposal
Global Perspective

The Internet Governance Forum

• IGF mandate focuses on:
  – multi-stakeholder dialogue and exchange of experiences on how to maintain the stability, accessibility and availability of the Internet.
  – cooperation and exchange of expertise in technology issues as the main driver of the discussion to reach consensus.

• IGF gathers capacities from different geographic areas whose main concern is to debate how the Internet can be managed but not controlled.
IGF - a medium for discussion

- After five global meetings, the IGF proved to be an appropriate discussion medium; optimal to exchange expertise and suggest the way forward.
- It initiated a global dialogue about the core issues related to Internet use.
- Both user and business viewpoints were considered.
- The IGF represented an opportunity seized by governments through ministry delegations and parliamentarians.

IGF and developing countries

- For developing countries, the Internet represents a golden opportunity to benefit from the technological revolution. However, the lack of clear plans and expertise in specific issues resulted in a gap between the North and the South.
- Priorities and policies of the North do not necessarily reflect the needs of developing countries.
- Despite its non-binding nature, the IGF process has been an important pillar in the policy making process of Internet governance. It has been useful by providing a platform to showcase experiences that participants from developing countries can take back to their regions. It also provided an opportunity for cooperation between different stakeholders.
# IGF Themes from Athens till Vilnius

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access</td>
<td>Access</td>
<td>- Reaching the next billion;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>Diversity</td>
<td>- Promoting Cyber-Security and Trust;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Openness</td>
<td>Openness</td>
<td>- Managing Critical Internet Resources.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Security</td>
<td>Critical Internet Resources</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IGF-IV, Sharm el Sheikh, 2009</th>
<th>IGF-V, Vilnius, 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Managing critical Internet resources;</td>
<td>- Managing critical Internet resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Security, openness and privacy;</td>
<td>- Security, openness and privacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Access and diversity;</td>
<td>- Access and diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Internet governance in the light of WSIS principles;</td>
<td>- Internet governance for development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Cloud computing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Regional Perspectives
IGF on the regional level

- During the consultations of Feb. 2008, the civil society stressed the importance of customizing IG issues with significant relevance to the different regions.
- There are various social, economic and political disparities which do not qualify LDCs to integrate into the global IG debate.
- As a result, numerous national and regional events took place to address IG issues at local and regional levels awarding direct consideration to the regional priorities of developing countries.
- The first regional Eastern African IGF (EAIGF) was organized in Kenya after a series of local IGFs held in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. The outcome of this meeting has traced the issues of prime concern to the region.

8 Regional IGFs

- Asia Pacific Regional IGF (APrIGF): http://rigf.asia
- Central Africa IGF: www.fgiac.org
- Commonwealth IGF: http://www.commonwealthigf.org/
- East Africa IGF (EAIGF), Nairobi: http://www.eaigf.or.ke/
  - Kenya National IGF: http://www.eaigf.or.ke/nigfs/kigf.html
  - Uganda National IGF: http://www.eaigf.or.ke/nigfs/uigf.html
- European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDig): http://www.eurodig.org
- Latin America and Caribbean IGF: http://lacnic.net/sp/eventos/fgi3/
- West Africa IGF: http://meeting.afrinic.net/waigf/
A Message from the Chairman

I sincerely welcome all the participants to our three activities and look forward to their active and valued contribution to Internet governance issues to sustain the relevant interests of our community, local and regional.

About rIGF ASIA

rIGF ASIA is a regional Internet governance forum for the Asia-Pacific region. It was established in 2007 with the purpose of promoting and discussing issues related to Internet governance in the Asia-Pacific region. The forum is organized and hosted by ESCWA, a regional economic commission of the United Nations.

rIGF ASIA is a platform for stakeholders to meet and discuss issues related to Internet governance, including policy development, regulatory frameworks, and best practices. It provides a space for governments, civil society, industry, and technical communities to exchange views, share information, and collaborate on Internet governance issues.

rIGF ASIA also serves as a preparatory body for the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which is held every two years in Geneva. The rIGF ASIA meeting provides a regional perspective on global Internet governance issues and helps to identify regional priorities and challenges.

The rIGF ASIA forum brings together a diverse group of participants, including governments, industry leaders, civil society representatives, and technical experts. It aims to foster dialogue and collaboration among these stakeholders to ensure that the Internet is used for the benefit of all people.

rIGF ASIA also aims to support the development of regional initiatives and projects related to Internet governance. It encourages the adoption of regional standards and best practices, and works to promote sustainable and inclusive Internet development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Asia-Pacific Regional IGF (APrIGF) in Hong Kong

The Asia-Pacific Regional IGF (APrIGF) is an annual event that brings together stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region to discuss and share ideas on Internet governance issues. The event is hosted by the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) and supported by ESCWA.

The APrIGF event in Hong Kong is scheduled for October 2023. It will be held in cooperation with the Internet Society of Hong Kong and Macao (ISOC HKMO). The event aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange views, share information, and collaborate on Internet governance issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

The event is divided into two main parts: a Regional Roundtable and an Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The Regional Roundtable is a roundtable discussion that brings together stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region to discuss and share ideas on Internet governance issues. The IGF is a platform for stakeholders to present and discuss Internet governance issues in a more formal setting.

The event will also feature a number of workshops and sessions on various Internet governance issues, including cybersecurity, data protection, and online content regulation. The event aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange views, share information, and collaborate on Internet governance issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

The APrIGF event in Hong Kong is scheduled for October 2023. It will be held in cooperation with the Internet Society of Hong Kong and Macao (ISOC HKMO). The event aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange views, share information, and collaborate on Internet governance issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

The event is divided into two main parts: a Regional Roundtable and an Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The Regional Roundtable is a roundtable discussion that brings together stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region to discuss and share ideas on Internet governance issues. The IGF is a platform for stakeholders to present and discuss Internet governance issues in a more formal setting.

The event will also feature a number of workshops and sessions on various Internet governance issues, including cybersecurity, data protection, and online content regulation. The event aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange views, share information, and collaborate on Internet governance issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

The APrIGF event in Hong Kong is scheduled for October 2023. It will be held in cooperation with the Internet Society of Hong Kong and Macao (ISOC HKMO). The event aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange views, share information, and collaborate on Internet governance issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

The event is divided into two main parts: a Regional Roundtable and an Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The Regional Roundtable is a roundtable discussion that brings together stakeholders from the Asia-Pacific region to discuss and share ideas on Internet governance issues. The IGF is a platform for stakeholders to present and discuss Internet governance issues in a more formal setting.

The event will also feature a number of workshops and sessions on various Internet governance issues, including cybersecurity, data protection, and online content regulation. The event aims to provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange views, share information, and collaborate on Internet governance issues in the Asia-Pacific region.
Third Latin American and Caribbean Regional
Preparatory Meeting For The Internet Governance Forum
3, 4, 5 August, Quito, Ecuador.

Home

The laconia for Progressive Communications (RAC), the NUFIF Institute, and the Regional Internet Address Registry for Latin America and the Caribbean (LACNIC) are pleased to announce the Third Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which will take place on 3-5 August 2010 in the city of Quito, Ecuador. The event will be held at the Hotel Quito.

As in previous editions, the purpose of the meeting is to provide a space for multistakeholder political dialogue between governments, the private sector, the technical community, academia, and civil society organizations. The region has made progress in understanding the challenges currently posed by Internet governance, further debate will contribute to identify regional priorities and broaden the region's participation at the 2010 Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which will meet in Lithuania in September. Likewise, as in previous editions, one of the meeting's goals is to inform the region's stakeholders on the issues and trends observed in the debates and discussions of the global IGF.

The process of regionalization: the discussion around the agenda established by the IGF has been taking shape since 2008, when LACNIC, AFO, and NUFIF summoned the first preparatory meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean in Montevideo, Uruguay. The second preparatory meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This regionalization has become even more relevant because last year the IGF included in its official agenda a space for informing on regional and national processes, their points of view, challenges, and priorities.
**East Africa Internet Governance Forum - ( EAIGF )**

**Local Partners**

- [UCC](https://www.ucc.ac.ug)
- [REPUBLIC OF UGANDA](https://www.uganda.go.ug)

**2010 IGF Remote participation HUB in Nairobi - 14th to 17th Sept.**

Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC) in cooperation with Multimedia University will be hosting a remote participation Hub in Nairobi from 14th September 2010 - 17th September 2010. The remote participation was earlier scheduled to take place at the Multimedia University, but has been changed due to technical issues.

You can follow #IGF2010 sessions on Webcast: [http://webcast.ifg2010.org](http://webcast.ifg2010.org)

Participants who would like to participate at the Kenya IGF HUB please register by sending an email to remote@igf.or.ke

Read more.

**The 2010 IGF Meeting**

14th - 17th Sept. 2010, Vilnius, Lithuania.

The 6th annual IGF meeting will be held in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 14-17 September 2010. The overall theme is "IGF 2010 - developing the future together." There will be a flag ceremony on 12 September 2010 at 17:30.

For more information, visit [event site](http://webcast.ifg2010.org).

**East Africa Internet Forum**

- EAIGF: The fourth EAIGF was held in Kampala, Uganda. This third EAIGF was hosted by the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), Network Uganda, Collaboration on International ICT policy for East and Southern (CIPESA), and Women of Uganda Network (WOUNET).

**Read more**

2010 Kenya National IGF

The Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC), the Kenya ICT Action Network (KIATNET) and other participating organizations held the 2010 Kenya IGF at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Nairobi, on the 29th of July 2010 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM.

2010 Kenya IGF e-discussion report

2010 Kenya IGF Programme

The Presentations for the forum can be downloaded here:

- [IGF 2009: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt](http://www.ifg2009.org)
- [IGF 2009: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt](http://www.ifg2009.org)
- [IGF 2009: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt](http://www.ifg2009.org)
- [IGF 2009: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt](http://www.ifg2009.org)

**Read more**

- [IGF 2009: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt](http://www.ifg2009.org)
- [IGF 2009: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt](http://www.ifg2009.org)
- [IGF 2009: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt](http://www.ifg2009.org)
- [IGF 2009: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt](http://www.ifg2009.org)
East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EA-IGF) was held from 16-18 November 2016 in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt. Reports of the EA-IGF 2016 were presented and discussed during the annual meeting.

Bose articles:
- 2005 EA-IGF, 7-9 September 2005, Nairobi, Kenya
- EA-IGF for ParliamentariansEA-IGF-Ken: 9th September 2009
- 2004 National Online/Asia Internet Governance Forum
- Kenya to host the 27th IGF Meeting (March 2012)
Arab Regional Perspective

Arab Perspective on Internet Governance

• The LAS, particularly the Council of Arab Ministers for Communication and Information Technology, formed a working group called the Arab Working Group on Domain Names and Internet Issues (AWGDNII)

• AWGDNII discussed a preliminary list of issues before the fourth IGF meeting in Sharm El Sheikh including:
  – Infrastructure, access costs, interconnection and establishment of national and regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs);
  – Multilingualism, Promotion of online Arabic content and ADNs;
  – Establishment of CERTs and a regional CERT Network, securing submarines cables, data integrity, authentication and non-repudiation;
  – Child abuse and safety of minors;
  – Telecom, media convergence and mobile broadcasting;
  – Internationalization of ICANN and the post-JPA ICANN;
  – Transition from IPv4 to IPv6.
Arab Perspective on Internet Governance

• Following the 33rd meeting of ICANN in Cairo, an Arab discussion group called “ArabICANN” was established by a group of Arab experts, professionals, and government representatives, in order to actively discuss issues related to IG and reflect the views of the Arab region, and try to voice the opinion of the Arab communities to ICANN and to rest of the world.
• This group has established the “Arab Internet community initiative”

ESCWA and Internet Governance

• ICTD at ESCWA became involved in the IGF process since its inception.
• ESCWA drafted a key contribution to the global workshop on IG, in March 2004 advocating increased participation in the existing IG mechanisms.
• ESCWA serves in the ICANN GAC since 2008 to cater for the interests of its Member countries.
• ESCWA served in the Selection Committee for ICANN global fellowship program
• ICTD at ESCWA developed a study in 2009: “Internet Governance: Challenges and Opportunities for the ESCWA Member Countries”:
• Launched in 2010, the Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance (ADIG) Initiative.
Major Components of the Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance

**Study on Internet Governance**

**Collaborative Roadmap on IG**

**A proposed Arab IGF concept**

**Interactive Portal**

(including an online forum, online questionnaires and link to community initiatives)

**Joint Public Meetings**

(Panel Discussion Session in IGF-V and Joint Expert Group Meeting in Beirut)

Towards an Arab IGF
From Athens to Vilnius

- Some experts believe that the level of involvement of the Arab region in the IGF was rather limited towards the inception of the IGF.
- Participations were dispersed and did not represent a unified Arab view.
- However, during the last five years, the Arab community became aware of the importance of the Internet governance and has worked on improving representation of most of the entities involved in the governance of the Internet.

Arab Participation in the IGF

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization/Agency</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>No. of participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arab Governments &amp; Intergovernmental Organizations</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (private &amp; NGOs)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt (host country)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IGF-IV in Sharm el Sheikh**
20% Arabs

**IGF-V in Vilnius**
2% Arabs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Organization/Agency</th>
<th>No.</th>
<th>No. of participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arab Governments &amp; Intergovernmental Organizations</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (private &amp; NGOs)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lithuania (host country)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>420</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IGF Attendance Statistics

- **In IGF-V in Vilnius**, from overall attendance of 1451 participants from 106 countries, 2% of participants were nationals from countries of the LAS.

- **In IGF-IV in Sharm el Sheikh**, from overall attendance of 1480 participants from 116 countries, 20% of participants were nationals from countries of the LAS.

Arab Participation in the MAG

- The Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) was established by the Secretary General to assist in convening the IGFs.
- It consists of 56 Members from governments, the private sector and civil society, including representatives from the academic and technical communities.
- It holds meetings three times a year.
- **4 members of the MAG are from Arab countries representing governments, the private sector, civil society and the academia.**
Benefits of an Arab IGF

The Arab IGF will be:

• A platform for empowering the region in global Internet Governance arena;
• A venue to follow-up on the progress of the Proposed Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance in Arab Countries;
• A replica of the global IGF process on a regional level for the period of 2011-2015;
• An interface and liaison to the global IGF process in its second phase;
• An umbrella to launch a number of national IGFs;
• A multi stakeholder process that is led by the governmental and intergovernmental bodies in the region.
High-Level Consultative Committee

- A High-level Consultative Committee is to be formed to assist the Secretary General in convening the Arab IGF (*similar to the MAG*).
- Consists of 40 Members:
  - 22 from Arab governments;
  - 10 from the private sector and civil society, including representatives from the academic and technical communities;
  - 8 from regional and international organizations including LAS, ESCWA, ECA, and ITU.
- Will hold meetings three times a year at LAS premises and is preceded by open consultations meetings.

Arab IGF Structure (1/2)

- Multilateral, multi-stakeholder, democratic and transparent;
- Decentralized structure that would be subject to periodic review;
- Has no oversight function and does not replace existing arrangements, mechanisms, institutions or organizations, but rather involves them and benefit from their expertise;
- Neutral, non-duplicative and non-binding process that does not involve itself in the daily or technical operations of the Internet.
Arab IGF Structure (2/2)

- A dedicated **secretariat** will be formed to organize and convene the Arab IGF;
- In order to launch the first Arab IGF (set the venue, date and timeline), a consultative meeting is to be organized during the **first quarter of 2011** under the auspices of LAS and at their headquarters;
- The Arab IGF will be convened annually with proceedings and discussions published and made public.

Arab IGF Proposed Mandate

- Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet;
- Provide a base for discussion among all stakeholders each according to their area of expertise;
- Unifying Arab views and priorities;
- Specifying issues of relevant emerging technologies as needed;
- Building capacities for Internet governance in the less developed countries;
- Transmitting the Arab viewpoint to global conferences and strengthening the Arab role in public policy making for Internet governance.
Endorsement

• The IGF secretariat and several members of the MAG welcomed the initiative.
• The panelists in the Joint ESCWA –LAS Session in Vilnius stressed the importance of establishing an Arab IGF that is transparent, inclusive and based on national priorities with essential outreach capacities.
• The idea is endorsed by ESCWA and LAS in principle.
• There is a need for wide-scale discussion of the concept and hence the next session.